



Westchester Unit 9200
Civil Service Employees Association
112 East Post Road
White Plains, New York 10601

Minutes of Shop Steward / Monthly Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Karen Pecora, President

James Kelly, 1st Vice President
Edward J. Magilton, 2nd Vice President
Peter Snyder, 3rd Vice President
Judith Brome, 4th Vice President

Michael Wolf, Treasurer
Kimberly Gotzen, Secretary
Kwabena Manu, Union Representative
[Vacant], Sergeant-at-Arms

- Officers in Attendance: All officers were in attendance.
- Meeting was held at the CSEA Local 860 Office, 595 West Hartsdale Avenue, White Plains.
- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Pecora.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of silence for departed members and family members and troops serving throughout the world

Agenda Topics for Discussion

➤ Introduction of New Release Representative:

President Pecora is happy to report that both release positions have been approved by the County, and we will now have four Union Representatives in the office. Would like to thank all the members that showed interest in the open release position; we went through all the resumes and narrowed them down to fit the criteria that we needed, and interviewed 5 people. We would like to introduce **Junio Ismael Alvarado** as the new Union Representative appointee who will be working full time in the union office shortly. And as you know, 1st Vice President Jim Kelly will be in the office. In the next few weeks we will be redistributing the departments among the union representatives, and we will let the members know which representatives will be responsible for which departments, as well as arranging site visits.

➤ NYSERS Retirement Workshop:

A free workshop by the New York State Employees Retirement System will be held for Unit 9200 members on **Monday, September 14, 2009 at 5:30 PM** at the County Center. The workshop will be approximately 90 minutes, and representatives will be available to take questions from members afterward. Please call the union office if you would like to attend.

➤ Sick Bank:

The approximate balance of days currently in the Sick Bank is **5101**.

➤ Handout: Grievance Representation Workshop:

A two-part, six-hour free workshop on Grievance Representation, to educate members on understanding the role and responsibilities of Grievance Representatives in protecting the rights of bargaining unit members in the workplace, will be held at the Local 860 Office on **Wednesday, September 9, 2009 and Thursday, September 10, 2009** from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM). Call the Region 3 Office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

Stewards and activists previously certified as Grievance Representatives who have not taken this training since before 2006 are requested to take the training again.

➤ **Shop Steward Training:**

Shop Steward Training will be scheduled again soon. Stewards previously certified who have not taken this training since before 2006 are requested to take the training again when it becomes available.

➤ **Handout: Unit 9200 Holiday Party – Save the Date:**

The Unit 9200 Holiday Party will now be held on **Saturday, December 12, 2009** at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle from 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. The menu has been finalized, and we are in the process of finding the entertainment. We will be posting information about the event details and procedure to purchase tickets soon.

➤ **GOTV (Get Out The Vote!) – Primary Day is September 15, 2009:**

Unit 9200 has created a Political Action Committee, and we are in the process of scheduling interviews with candidates for local elections, including County Executive, County Clerk, District Attorney and Legislators. Primary races are very important as they will have a direct impact on County Employees. We urge you to vote in your local primaries, and we will provide members with "I'M CSEA AND I VOTE" patches to wear on Primary and Election Days. One day will also be arranged for members to show solidarity and wear the patches at their work locations.

➤ **Handout: Local Government Discipline: Representing Members in Interrogations:**

A two-part, six-hour free workshop on Representing Members in Interrogations, to educate members on understanding Civil Service Law Section 75 and rights of Union Representatives and employees in disciplinary interrogations, will be held at the Local 860 Office on **Wednesday, October 14, 2009 and Thursday, October 15, 2009** from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM). Call the Region 3 Office at **(845) 831-1000** to register.

➤ **Handout: Defensive Driving:**

A six-hour Defensive Driving classroom course at the Local 860 Office, held on one Saturday or two weeknights. The fee is **\$19.00**. Upcoming classes to be held **Wednesday, September 23, 2009 and Thursday, September 24, 2009** from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM (includes light dinner at 5:30 PM) or **Saturday, September 26, 2009** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (includes light breakfast at 8:30 AM and light lunch). The handout has scheduled course dates through November. Call **(800) 942-6874** to register.

➤ **Alzheimer's Association Walk:**

A 3-mile walk to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2009** in White Plains. Unit 9200 will be putting together a team to walk, and will be planning fundraising events to raise money for this important cause. Please call the Unit office for more information.

➤ **Quality Assurance Notice from DSS regarding Telephone Calls:**

Our CSEA Labor Relations Specialist agreed that the County can monitor phone calls, and the members that are requested to should sign the document. However, in the event that a member is disciplined due to this policy, we would file an Improper Practice Grievance, because discipline resulting from a new policy is a mandatory subject of negotiation, and must be brought to CSEA by the County before being implemented.

A member indicated that not all DSS employees are being asked to sign this document. President Pecora requested that all members in DSS that are requested to complete this form, and those who may be disciplined as a result of the new policy, please contact the Unit office with more information.

➤ **Protest Regarding the Election of Unit 9200 Officers:**

President Pecora informed the members that the last protest regarding the Election of Unit 9200 Officers was dismissed in it's entirety by CSEA. We hope that at this point all of our agenda is to do what is best for the Unit, and that we can go forward and all work together to get that done.

Open Forum

Questions from members answered by President Pecora and Unit 9200 Executive Board Members:

➤ Will the Political Action Committee interviews take place before the Primaries?

Unfortunately we will not be able to complete the interviews before Primary Day, but the interviews will determine the recommendations Unit 9200 makes to the CSEA Region Office for endorsements. CSEA endorsements should not dictate to the members who they should vote for, however we urge all members to vote in the Primary and General Elections.

➤ Have all requested days been paid back by the Sick Bank?

Any outstanding applications at the onset of the suspension of the Sick Bank in August 2007, and those applications filed since the Sick Bank was restored in December 2008, were paid. Those that filed applications between August 8, 2007 and November 30, 2008 were not paid.

➤ Has 1st Vice President Kelly been released by his department?

Yes. The releases were approved and Jim will be working in the office, but we don't have a set schedule for the jobs we do as Union Representatives in the Unit office.

➤ When will the contract be printed and distributed to the members?

We are very close to having the contract document finalized with the County, and we will be making arrangements to have the contract printed and distributed to the members as soon as is possible. Members can use their copy of the current 2002-2005 contract, which is still in effect, for reference purposes for trainings, etc.

➤ How was the issue resolved with the member who was concerned that union dues were being used to purchase alcohol at the Unit 9200 Holiday Party last year?

The member's concerns were addressed, however, the Executive Board voted on this type of party for our members, and the vast majority of the members who participated were satisfied with these arrangements. A member would like to volunteer to be involved with how the Unit spends union dues to get members involved if there is a committee that deals with this issue.

➤ Member would like to know the other candidates for the release position besides Mr. Alvarado.

President Pecora will contact the other candidates, and if they wish to be identified, we will release that information to the members.

Officer's Reports

3rd Vice President Snyder – Spoke to the members in his capacity as a citizen. Seventy years ago today the Second World War started. There is a war going on right now, but it is not affecting us since we're in a suburban area. He would like to suggest in honor of the eighth anniversary of the events of **September 11, 2001**, to display the American Flag, and he explained its proper placement. Also, President Obama has asked that September 11th be a day of volunteerism – he urges members to volunteer for a cause in some small way, to help bring back the feeling of patriotism in honor of this important occasion.

4th Vice President Brome – The **Alzheimer's Association Walk** will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2009** in White Plains, and Unit 9200 will have a Healthy Breakfast and Bake Sale Fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Walk on the morning of **Thursday, September 17, 2009** in the lobby of M.O.B.I. Donations of baked goods and/or items to raffle are welcome. Please call the Unit office for more information.

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

- The next monthly meeting is scheduled for: [TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009](#) (5:30 P.M. Light Dinner / 6:00 P.M. Meeting)

Adjournment

- Raffle for CSEA Unit 9200 Jacket was won by **Ylsa Abrams** from DOH.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Gotzen

Kimberly Gotzen
Secretary / Chair, Communications and Public Relations Committee / Shop Steward & Grievance Rep., Unit 9200

Handouts / Attachments

- AGENDA - OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING
- Local 860 – Grievance Representation Workshop [September 9&10, 2009]
- Local 860 – Local Government Discipline: Representing Members in Interrogations Workshop [October 14&15, 2009]
- (Local 844 – New City) – Grievance Representation Workshop [October 22&29, 2009]
- Local 860 – Grievance Representation DAY TIME Workshop [November 5, 2009]
- Local 860 – Defensive Driving Courses [July through November 2009]
- Region 3 – Emergency Disaster Fund Women’s and Children’s Clothing Drive [September 26, 2009]
- CSEA – Agreement with NYS to Avoid State Layoffs – Fact Sheet
- CSEA – Our Unions Take on the New Health Care Proposals
- CSEA – Labor Day Parade [September 12, 2009]
- CSEA – P.E.O.P.L.E. (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality)
- CSEA – Important and Useful Websites for CSEA Unit 9200 Westchester County Employees
- CSEA – Steward Update: A New Look at Stewards and Communications
- CSEA – Steward Update: Jobs of the Steward: a Quick Quiz
- Alzheimer’s Association – We’re on the Move to End Alzheimer’s / Memory Walk [October 4, 2009]
- Pearl Carroll – Valuable Insurance Programs
- AFSCME/UnionPlus Everyday Savings
- Working Advantage – Spring 2009 Order Form

Unit 9200 Office

- The Unit 9200 Office is located at [112 East Post Road, 4th Floor, Room 428, in White Plains](#). Contact us by Telephone at [\(914\) 995-2151](tel:9149952151), by Fax at [\(914\) 995-5629](tel:9149955629), by E-mail at csea9200@westchestergov.com, or visit our Website at www.CSEA9200.com.